

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 285 - SB 238**

March 9, 2009

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to develop a curriculum for the instruction of Chinese in K-12 public schools. Requires the State Board of Education (SBOE) and DOE to make a report on the development of this curriculum to the Education Committees of the General Assembly by February 1, 2010. Encourages LEAs to offer such courses.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures - Not Significant**

**Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$388,800/Permissive**

Assumptions:

- According to the Department of Education (DOE), DOE has adopted national curriculum standards for foreign language that include Chinese. As such, a curriculum will not be developed by DOE.
- Textbooks will cost approximately \$60 per book and approximately \$1,800 per class (\$60 x 30 students). The cost for a one section, two-year course for one school will be approximately \$3,600 (1,800 x 2)
- There are 323 high schools in Tennessee. If one-third of those (108) implement a one class, two-year course in Chinese, the total cost for text books will be \$388,800 (\$3,600 x 108).
- No change in the BEP formula. All cost will be incurred by LEAs and will be permissive.
- Textbook review teams meet in a six-year cycle and are currently meeting. Any additional textbook review will be done within the normal cycle and will not require any increase in state expenditures for travel.
- Any increase in state expenditures to make a report to the General Assembly is estimated to be not significant.

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**CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "W".

James W. White, Executive Director

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